

## REMARKS

## I. Objections to the Specification:

The Examiner objects to the specification for failing to properly cross-reference related applications and for failing to accurately describe the figures. The specification has been amended to include reference to U.S. Patent No. 6,383,758, which issued from U.S. Application No. 09/227,725.

In regards to the Examiner's objection to the figures, applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the Preliminary Amendment filed co-currently with the filing of this application on February 8, 2002 in which, the applicants amended the specification as currently requested by the Examiner. Acknowledgment of the Preliminary Amendment and withdrawal of the present objection is earnestly solicited.

## II. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-6 have been cancelled, claims 18 through 23 have been withdrawn as directed to non-elected subject matter. Therefore claims 7 through 17 are currently pending and at issue in this application.

By this amendment claims 7, and 12 through 15 have been amended. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the mutant presenilin protein, or functional fragment thereof binds the armadillo protein. Support for the present amendment is found in the specification, for example, at page 9, lines 8 through 24. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to clarify that the recited amino acid positions correspond to the wild-type human PS1 sequence defined by SEQ ID NO: 1. Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 4, lines 9 through 12. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to recite the amino acid positions correspond to the wild-type human PS2 sequence defined by SEQ ID NO: 2. Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 4, lines 12 through 16, for example.

Applicants submit that the present amendments do not introduce any new matter to the specification.

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 through 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Applicant's respectfully traverse the present rejection, and request reconsideration in view of the present remarks and amendments.

Additionally, the Examiner maintains that the term “mutant presenilin protein” renders the claims indefinite as it is unclear what constitutes a “normal” presenilin protein. Applicants’ submit that the phrase “mutant presenilin protein” is not indefinite because one of ordinary skill would readily appreciate that the phrase means a wild-type presenilin protein, having a mutation. The term “mutant” has been assigned its ordinary meaning, e.g. a polypeptide sequence having at least one substitution, addition or deletion, relative to the wild type protein. *See, e.g.*, page 7, lines 3 through 5. Additionally, applicants’ have provided several embodiments of mutant presenilin proteins in the specification that are illustrative of the present invention. *See, e.g.*, page 6, line 22 through page 7, line 7 and U.S. Application No. 08/888,077 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,020,143) which is incorporated by reference in the present application. Therefore, the term “mutant presenilin protein” is defined with sufficient particularity in the specification, that one of ordinary skill would be appraised of its scope and meaning.

Application No. 10/071,900  
Amendment in response to Office Action Mailed June 30, 2004

